

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY EA/PRCM:OVARSTRONG:MFR

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

EA:PCHABIB

S/S - MR. GAMMON

----- 040233

R 262044Z DEC 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 281801

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR,PINS, CH

SUBJECT: ESPIONAGE ALLEGATION BY PRC AGAINST FSO WILLIAM
STOKES

REF: PEKING 2232

1. USLO SHOULD RESPOND ORALLY TO TING YUAN-HUNG WITH FOLLOWING STATEMENT, NOTING THAT YOU ARE ACTING UNDER DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS. YOU SHOULD AVOID IF POSSIBLE FURTHER DISCUSSION AFTER MAKING THIS STATEMENT.
 2. QUOTE THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DOES NOT AGREE THAT WILLIAM STOKES WAS INVOLVED IN ESPIONAGE DURING THE PERIOD HE WAS ASSIGNED TO CHINA. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS FULL CONFIDENCE IN ANY OFFICIAL IT SENDS TO CHINA. UNQUOTE
 3. FYI, TING'S STATEMENT THAT STOKES HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM CHINA FOR "ESPIONAGE INVOLVEMENT" PRESUMABLY REFERS TO THE BLANKET EXPULSION ORDER COVERING THE MUKDEN CONGEN STAFF. THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC CHARGE AGAINST STOKES WHILE HE WAS IN MUKDEN. THERE WAS, HOWEVER, A MISUNDERSTANDING WHICH LED THE USG TO REQUEST VARIOUS GOVERNMENTS
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TO PROTEST TO PRC ABOUT STOKES HAVING BEEN TAKEN AWAY IN

CONNECTION WITH AN ESPIONAGE TRIAL. ON NOVEMBER 25, 1949,

THE CHINESE AUTHORITIES OFFERED STOKES AN OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND AS AN OBSERVER THE TRIAL (NOT FOR ESPIONAGE) OF CONSUL GENERAL WARD AND FOUR OTHER CONGEN STAFF MEMBERS, WHICH HE DID. ON NOVEMBER 27, A SIMILAR OFFER WAS MADE REGARDING TRIAL OF SOME NON-AMERICANS ACCUSED OF HAVING BEEN ENGAGED IN ESPIONAGE FOR THE USG. AFTER CHECKING WITH WARD, BY THEN RELEASED, STOKES ACCEPTED OFFER. DURING THAT DAY, WHILE STOKES WAS ATTENDING TRIAL, WARD RECEIVED A CALL FROM PEKING CONSUL GENERAL CLUBB, WHO THEN REPORTED TO THE DEPARTMENT THAT STOKES HAD BEEN TAKEN AWAY IN CONNECTION WITH AN ESPIONAGE TRIAL. RESULTS WERE AS MENTIONED ABOVE, AS WELL AS WESTERN PRESS STORIES THAT STOKES HAD BEEN ACCUSED OF ESPIONAGE. ON NOVEMBER 28, THE ENTIRE AMERICAN STAFF OF MUKDEN CONGEN WAS ESCORTED TO TIENTSIN AND PUT ABOARD AN AMERICAN FREIGHTER.

4. POSSIBLY RELATED TO TING'S STATEMENT IS FACT THAT HONG KONG SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST NOVEMBER 27 THIS YEAR, IN COLUMN "25 YEARS AGO TODAY," RECALLED THAT STOKES HAD BEEN "RELEASED" BY THE CHINESE. KISSINGER

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Disposition Authority: ShawDG
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